

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for displaying resource aids in a display area, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying a user interface comprising at least one displayable object within a display area; and

responsive to an initiating event, placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, such that said at least one displayable object is not obscured by said transparent resource aid.

2. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to said initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

3. The method for displaying resource aid in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to said initiating event, wherein said initiating event is a position of a cursor over a sensitive region of said displayable object.

4. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

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determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

5. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system; and

compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

6. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

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7. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

8. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid, wherein said transparent resource aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

9. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

10. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object.

11. A system for displaying resource aids in a display area,

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said system comprising:

a graphical user interface;

means for displaying at least one displayable object within a display area of said graphical user interface; and

means responsive to an initiating event, for placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object.

12. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

13. The system for displaying resource aid in accordance with claim 11, wherein said initiating event is a position of a cursor over a sensitive region of said at least one displayable object.

14. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

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means for adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

15. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system; and

means for compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

16. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

means for compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

17. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

18. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid, wherein

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said transparent resource aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

19. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

20. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object.

21. A program for displaying resource aids in a display area, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for displaying at least one displayable object within a display area of a graphical user interface; and

means for controlling placement of a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object in response to an initiating event.

22. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with

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claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

23. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system; and

means for compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

24. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

means for compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

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25. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for controlling placement of said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

26. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

27. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object.

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